

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the above-identified application. Although, no claims have been amended in the present response, Applicant has provided a listing of the pending claims for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for granting an interview after final and for speaking with the Applicant's attorney over the telephone on April 20, 2006. During the telephone interview, the claim language "wherein the encryption key is known only to the security chip," recited in claim 1, was discussed in conjunction with the Grawrock reference (2002/0083332), which the final Office action cites as disclosing the recited element.

Specifically, Applicant submitted two questions to the Examiner relating to the Grawrock reference. The first question requested the Examiner to identify the element in Grawrock being construed as the recited "security chip." The Examiner responded that the "TPM 150" element in Grawrock is being construed as the recited "security chip." The second question requested the Examiner to identify the element in Grawrock being construed as the recited "encryption key." The Examiner responded that the "secret value (SV) 520" element in Grawrock is being construed as the recited "encryption key" because Grawrock states that "SV 520" is being used as a cryptographic key.

In response, Applicant noted that Grawrock is directed to the "creation and distribution of a secret value between two devices" (Title). Hence, Applicant asserted that Grawrock does not disclose "wherein the encryption key is known only to the security chip," as recited in claim 1.

Although the Examiner could not say for certain that the Applicant's arguments overcame the Grawrock reference, the Examiner stated that it was persuasive.

Since neither the Johnson reference (6,898,577) nor the Thompson reference (6,725,382) discloses "wherein the encryption key is known only to the security chip," as recited in claim 1, even if Grawrock, Johnson, and Thompson were combined, the combination would neither teach nor suggest the claim element.

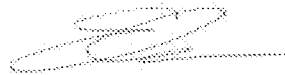
Accordingly, based at least on the reasons above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over Johnson, in view of Grawrock, and further in view of Thompson. Given that claims 18-21 and 38-41 recite elements similar to those in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that those claims, and the claims that depend therefrom are also patentable over Johnson, in view of Grawrock, and further in view of Thompson for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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